

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

Three Hundred and Sixty-four years ago, the Pilgrims of Plymouth reaped their first fall harvest in anticipation of the winter ahead. Although their numbers had been cut in half by the brutal realities of the previous winter, they were still very thankful for their small harvest and they prayed to God for the strength to face the bitter cold months ahead.

Survival itself had been a daily challenge in this New World. Without the help of the local Indians, many more Plymouth pioneers would have died. The Indians had taught them to hunt, they had shared with the Pilgrims more effective techniques of fertilization, and they had given the new settlers the corn of native America.

For this very first celebration of giving thanks, the Pilgrims invited their new Indian friends to enjoy three days of food, contests of skill and strength, and the friendly warmth of fellowship. Although the Pilgrims experienced great suffering and loss, they were thankful for what they did have: food, friends, families, and a fresh start in the New World.

Today, there is still much suffering in America. Although it is not the same as our ancestors endured, it is still a reality of life. Each day brings new challenges for us all. However, like our ancestors, we have much for which we should be thankful.

If God gave us only one day of life, it would have been generous.

If God gave us only one springtime or one fall, one summer or winter, it would have been generous.

If God gave us only one day of laughter, it would have been generous.

If God gave us only one beautiful meal, beautifully served in a secure home, it would have been generous.

If God gave us only one friend to share the journey of time, it would have been generous.

If God gave us only one year of married life, it would have been generous.

If God gave us only one child--sound in mind and body, it would have been generous.

If God gave us only one storm that left us unharmed, it would have been generous.

If God gave us only one day of a good time with friends, it would have been generous.

If God gave us only one talent for creating beauty, it would have been generous.

If God let us laugh only once in the face of calamity, it would have been generous.

If God gave us only one moment's pride in the successes of those we love, it would have been generous.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION - OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY
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When the Pilgrims of Plymouth broke bread and shared it with their brothers and sisters, they did so in hopes that there would be sharing, caring, and thankfulness for centuries to come. Let us not forget to pray those same hopes on this day. As we give thanks for the past, let us also pray that our lives in the present will create a better world in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 28, 1985, as

A DAY OF THANKS GIVING

in South Dakota, with hopes that you have something to be thankful for today, too.



ATTEST:

Alice Kundert
ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirteenth Day of November, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Five

William J. Janklow
WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

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